in loss of revenue to the East Coast Railway, which is already cash strapped;

(d) if so, whether Government have reviewed their decision to maintain the status quo; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Model Railway Stations

t1912. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have selected some of the Railway Stations to be upgraded as model stations;

(b) if so, whether such stations have been selected in Chhattisgarh also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Three stations namely Bilaspur, Durg and Raipur have been selected as Model Stations in Chhattisgarh.

Shutting down of diesel locomotive

1913. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to present instructions, if at any place, there is likely obstruction for more than thirty minutes, the diesel locomotive should be shut down;

(b) if so, whether the CAG has reported a large scale flouting of the said order in its report;

(c) if so, the action taken against the employees responsible for the same; and

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(d) the quantity of diesel wasted month-wise and monetary loss suffered as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Instructions on Indian Railways already exist for shutting down Diesel locomotives whenever expected detention is 30 minutes or more.

(b) Yes, sir. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in its Report No. 8 of 2004 (Railways) has highlighted violation of this protocol on two Zonal Railways, but the Railway has contended otherwise.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Research and Development by Railways

1914. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN : Will the Minsiter of RAILWAY? be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Research and Development wing of Railways has developed any indigenous equipment or innovation in technology in the recent years;

(b) if so, to what level the contribution of the research work will enhance the performance of Railways and also minimise the expenditure; and

(c) the details regarding the funds allocated for the R&D work during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The research work contributes towards continuous improvement in enhancing the performance of Railways and also minimising expenditure by continuously improving the reliability and maintainability of Railways assets, improving safety of train operations, increasing operational efficiency and also saving by way of import substitution.

(c) the funds allocated to Research, Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) under Demand No. 16 - Plan-head "Railway